



# PREPAREDNESS NEWS AND INFORMATION

*From FEMA's Preparedness Division*

November 19, 2004

## NATIONAL NEWS

### [Ridge Says He's Made No Decision About Staying On In Cabinet](#)

*Associated Press*, November 17, 2004

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge deflected questions Wednesday about whether he would be the next Cabinet official to step down, saying he has made no decision.

[Ridge: I have not resigned](#)

### [Approval Imminent For Terrorism Response Plan](#)

*Government Executive*, November 16, 2004

An integrated national plan for response to terrorist attacks and other national emergencies is likely to be approved by Cabinet secretaries by the end of this week, Deputy Homeland Security Secretary James Loy said Tuesday.

### [Captured Al Qaeda Reveals Plan To Sneak Nukes Into US From Mexico](#)

*TIME*, November 14, 2004

A key al-Qaeda operative seized in Pakistan recently offered an alarming account of the group's potential plans to target the U.S. with weapons of mass destruction, senior U.S. security officials tell *TIME*.

[Reason For Plane Theft In Mexico Worrisome](#)

### [Domestic Terrorism: New Trouble At Home](#)

*USA Today*, November 14, 2004

Home-grown terrorists have been steadily plotting and carrying out attacks in unrelated incidents across the nation, according to federal authorities and two organizations that monitor hate groups.

### [Pentagon Finds First Responders Not Prepared For Attacks On Army Bases](#)

*Government Executive*, November 17, 2004

Defense Department inspectors have found that first responders are not prepared to respond to attacks against U.S. Army bases.

### [First Responders Seek Common Lingo](#)

*Federal Computer Week*, November 15, 2004

A national effort to ensure that first responders can exchange information among any systems is picking up steam as community officials renew their efforts to overcome traditional barriers to sharing information.

### [U.S., EU Work To Strengthen Security Of Cargo Containers](#)

*USA Today*, November 16, 2004

The United States and the European Union are working on measures aimed at strengthening the security of cargo containers moving through seaports so they can't be used to smuggle terrorists or weapons.

### [Feds Grant Guam More Than \\$24 Million In Hazard Mitigation Funding](#)

*KUAM News*, November 19, 2004

The funds are part of the federal agency's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and come as part of the Presidential disaster declaration following 2002's Super typhoon Pongsona.

### [GAO: Postal Service Needs Comprehensive Plan For Physical Security](#)

*Government Executive*, November 16, 2004

The Postal Service has improved physical security at many facilities throughout the country, but lacks a comprehensive plan to address ongoing security problems at core centers, government auditors said in a report Tuesday.

#### **DHS Introduces Web-Course For EMS Response At MCIs**

DHS, November 18, 2004

Michael D. Brown, under secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response, announced today a new online course designed to assist Emergency Medical Service personnel to respond more effectively when faced with a Multiple Casualty Incident.

### **THE CONGRESS**

#### **Cybersecurity Reforms Said To Dim As Congress Nears Adjournment**

*Internetnews.com*, November 16, 2004

For the key items still left on the technology industry's legislative agenda, the final session of the 108th Congress has come down to wishing and hoping and not much else.

### **STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES**

#### **NRC, FEMA To Hold Nuclear Emergency Response Drill In New Hampshire**

*The Hampton Union*, November 16, 2004

The simulated drill tests the ability of nuclear plants to conduct a full-scale, emergency exercise.

#### **\$12.2 Million Grant To Go For Anti-Terror Work**

*The Arizona Republic*, November 16, 2004

Phoenix is expected to receive \$2.9 million in federal homeland security funding, money that will be spent on regional preparations in the event of a terrorist strike.

#### **Homeland Security Spending Boosts Phoenix's Economic Growth**

#### **Rim Country Firefighters Win FEMA Funds**

*The Payson Roundup*, November 16, 2004

In September, more than \$200,000 in Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency was awarded to two Rim country fire departments.

#### **New State Police Bomb Squad Off To Busy Start**

*Tribune-Review*, November 15, 2004

Supported by nearly \$1 million in federal Homeland Security grants, the state police bomb squad went into operation in late September. The unit, which consists of four bomb technicians and a supervisor, already has responded to more than 30 incidents statewide.

#### **Coast Guard Officials Attend West Virginia Community Meeting On Emergency Preparedness**

*The Herald-Dispatch*, November 17, 2004

Hosted by BASF's Community Advisory Panel, the discussion was held at the Tri-State Fire Academy along Ohio River Road.

#### **Florida Counties Prepare To Vie For \$300 Million In FEMA Mitigation Funds**

*The News-Press*, November 18, 2004

Mitigation funds come from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to make improvements such as installing hurricane shutters on public structures or building shelters.

#### **Half Of State's Flood Maps Are Outdated**

*Associated Press*, November 16, 2004

More than half of Indiana's flood plain maps are more than 15 years old, meaning they often lack updated information about commercial and residential construction that can change where water goes and how fast it moves.

#### **Old Flood Plain Maps Can Lead To Trouble**

#### **Texas Flood Project Slowly Reduces Number Of Homes In Flood Plain**

*KFDX 3*, November 17, 2004

The price tag for phase one was \$2.4 million. This drainage ditch at Stearns and Kemp has been completely submerged in the past, but the water is barely flowing through there now, even after all the rain we've had.

#### **Texas, Arkansas Emergency Officials Hold WMD Training Simulation**

*Texarkana Gazette*, November 17, 2004

About 200 emergency medical and public safety personnel and hazardous material crews swarmed Texarkana Regional Airport Tuesday amid reports of a 747 passenger jet making an emergency landing.

#### **Patrols Arouse Residents Along Border**

*The Caledonian-Record*, November 13, 2004

The Vermont Army National Guard is sharing its larger military helicopters and servicemen and -women with the U.S. Border Patrol for the wintertime border surveillance operation

#### **Hawaii's First Responders Get \$74 Million Boost**

*Honolulu Advertiser*, November 15, 2004

The money, part of a massive federal investment in security, also is being used to create a stronger network among military, law enforcement and emergency agencies, and public works and health sectors to prepare for an attack in the Islands.

#### **How Are Anti-Terrorism Dollars Being Spent?**

*KCRA 3*, November 15, 2004

Last year, the federal government gave California \$366 million in homeland security money. Sacramento County's share was approximately \$23 million. KCRA 3, wanting to know how that money was being spent in Northern California, launched an investigation, obtaining hundreds of public documents.

#### **Office Gets \$400,000 For Homeland Security**

*The Shreveport Times*, November 15, 2004

The Caddo-Bossier Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Metropolitan Medical Response System has been awarded a \$400,000 grant from the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency.

#### **U.S. Capitol Checkpoints Return, As Do Complaints**

*The Washington Post*, November 17, 2004

U.S. Capitol Police reinstated 14 traffic checkpoints yesterday and announced that police posts will be deployed intermittently around Capitol Hill for the foreseeable future to deter potential terrorists.

#### **Warren Students Participate In Terrorism Exercise**

*WRAL*, November 16, 2004

Terrorist threats in rural counties may seem unlikely, but students in Warren County took a training exercise seriously.

## RELATED INFORMATION

### RECENT REPORTS

- [What Does Homeland Security Spending Buy?](#), *American Enterprise Institute*
- [U.S. Postal Service: Physical Security Measures Have Increased At Some Core Facilities, But Security Problems Continue](#), GAO

### OPINION

- [Is Terror All It's Cracked Up To Be?](#), November 19, 2004

The information contained in this newsletter was collected from Internet sources. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position of the Department of Homeland Security or FEMA's Preparedness Division.